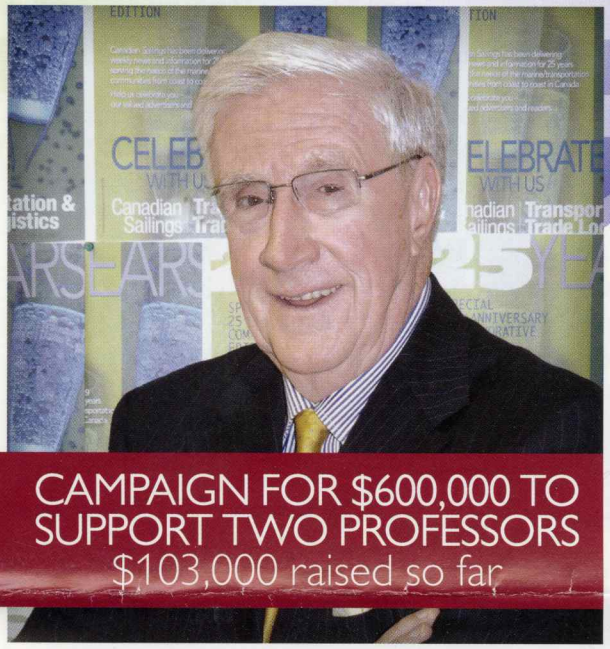
Summer 2014

Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

FUNDAMENTALS

NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF IRISH STUDIES

UNIVERSITÉ Concordia UNIVERSITY



CAMPAIGN FOR $600,000 TO SUPPORT TWO PROFESSORS

$103,000 raised so far

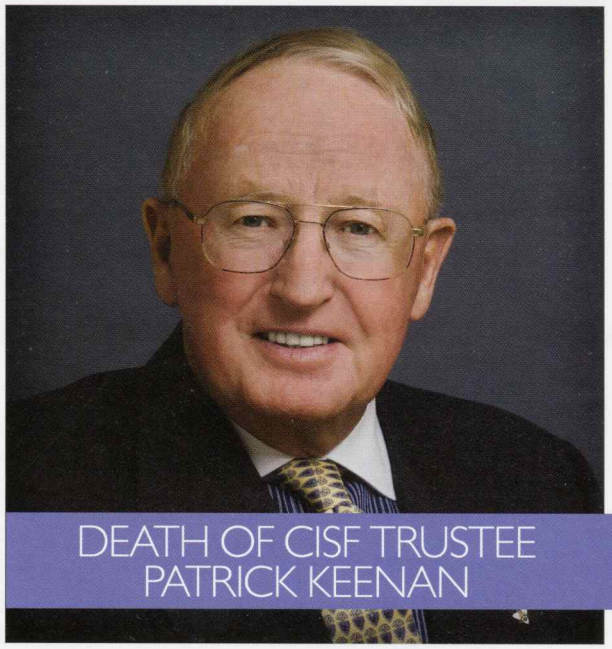
Brian O'Neill Gallery, LLD, is overseeing his final fundraising campaign for the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

Brian O'Neill Gallery, LLD, chairman of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, is spearheading a campaign to raise $600,000 to support the appointment of two professors in the School of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia. The foundation has committed $200,000 annually to the university over the next three years, as part of its agreement to finance the initial appointment of two professors.

So far, Gallery is very encouraged by the response of both regular and new donors. "We are deeply appreciative of the support we have received. As always, we welcome all donations, no matter how modest. Every contribution is important, not just in itself, but as an expression of approval of our goals. The other foundation trustees and I are very proud of what we have accomplished over the years, with the support of our donors and in partnership with Concordia," he says.

(Continued on page 5)

DEATH OF CISF TRUSTEE PATRICK KEENAN



Patrick Keenan, enthusiastic supporter of the CISF

The chairman and Trustees of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation (CISF) were deeply saddened to learn of the death of fellow trustee – Patrick J. Keenan – on May 1, 2014. Keenan had been an enthusiastic believer in the mission of the Foundation, and he and his wife Barbara made a very generous donation of $100,000 at a crucial stage in the development of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University. CISF chairman, Brian Gallery, in his letter to Barbara Keenan, conveyed the sympathies of Pat's fellow trustees, as well as their gratitude for his generosity.

From the outset of his involvement with the foundation, Pat Keenan was an avid cheerleader of the idea of providing Canadian students with the opportunity to study Ireland's heritage, wrote Gallery. As a Montrealer who moved to and established a successful business in Toronto, Keenan had a Canada-wide vision of the various Irish communities across the country.

(Continued on page 2)

WHAT THE SCHOOL OF CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES DOES

- Enrolls more than 800 students in 22 courses each year
- Provides courses by seven full-time, permanent professors and two annual visiting professors from Ireland, in disciplines such as History, Literature, Political Science, Theatre, Film, Ethnomusicology, Language, Geography, Celtic Christianity, Folklore, Material Culture and Diaspora Studies
- Offers the only degree in Canada on modern and historical Ireland, and on the Irish abroad (programs: Major, Minor and Certificate)
- Provides more than $30,000 annually towards 20 designated scholarships
- Hosts an average of eight distinguished international speakers and writers in its annual Irish Public Lecture Series
- Provides students with opportunities to intern and conduct field studies in Ireland
- Fosters individual student development through close mentorship by professors, small-class experiences and opportunities to participate in Irish cultural and academic events
- Supports 15 MA and PhD students in graduate programs

NEW VISITING IRISH LANGUAGE SCHOLAR ARRIVES AT SCHOOL

Daithí Mac Fhlaithimh will be the Visiting Irish Language Scholar at Concordia for the 2014-2015 academic year. He was selected and jointly sponsored by the Ireland Canada University Foundation and the School of Canadian Irish Studies. A native of County Monaghan, Daithí holds a BA and an MA in Irish from University College Dublin, and a PhD in Folklore from St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra. He also received a Professional Diploma in Education from the National University of Ireland, Galway. During his year at Concordia, Daithí will teach a six-credit introductory course in Irish within the School of Canadian Irish Studies and will be available to assist with Irish-language classes organized by COMHRA, the Montreal-based Irish language group. He is a keen musician and Sean Nós singer, as well as a passionate hurling player. The School of Canadian Irish Studies welcomes Daithí to Concordia and Montreal and wishes him a fulfilling academic experience.

DEATH OF CISF TRUSTEE PATRICK KEENAN

(Continued from page 1)

Pat and Barbara Keenan were exceptionally generous supporters of St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, funding three research chairs and the Keenan Research Centre, as well as being leading donors in its Capital Campaign. As a passionate Canadian, Pat was also proud to serve as a trustee of, and donate to, the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation. At board meetings, he frequently expressed his conviction that the aims of the foundation were important not only in themselves but also as a crucial means for Canadians to learn about part of their shared heritage. While Pat Keenan's presence will be greatly missed at board meetings, the foundation will continue to draw inspiration from his wholehearted support of its mission. *Ar dheas Dé go raibh a anam.*

Executive Editor:
Michael Kenneally

Editors:
Howard Bokser
Pamela Pavlik

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Stephen Pan
Ashley Plescia

WHY WE CREATED THE SCHOOL OF CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES

In studying Ireland, students are given the opportunity to learn about their own world and others.

At a time when university graduates need the flexibility to respond to a changing world, the School of Canadian Irish Studies offers an introduction to a range of disciplines that explore complex issues far beyond Ireland.

Our programs introduce students to the history and rich cultural heritage of Ireland and the Irish abroad. Studying in small classes, students receive a comprehensive introduction to Irish history and politics, and learn about Ireland's extraordinarily rich traditions in literature, theatre, music, dance, film and folklore.

Students also learn about the challenges and accomplishments of Irish immigrants in Canada, the United States, and elsewhere, and thereby discover an instructive narrative that resonates with other groups and society at large.

As well, by enrolling in the several disciplines that make up a Canadian Irish Studies degree, students can keep their options open, rather than committing themselves to one area of study. As their studies move forward, this flexibility allows students to decide which discipline they would like to concentrate on.

Beyond these valuable educational experiences, students will learn about issues that echo beyond Ireland's shores. Its particular history – of colonization, post-colonialism, famine, rebellion, civil war, partition, sectarian conflict, linguistic and cultural nationalism, literary revival, global music and dance, and the rise and fall of the Celtic Tiger – offers a series of case studies that have relevance in many other international contexts. Ireland offers a unique lens, then, to gain insight into many global problems. As the French magistrate and writer, Gustave de Beaumont, noted after his travels in 19th-century Ireland, "Ireland is a small country which raises all the great issues of politics, religion and culture."

As the only Canadian university offering a degree on modern Ireland and the Irish abroad, Concordia provides a unique education that can enhance the career prospects of students. The multidisciplinary focus of Canadian Irish Studies provides a solid foundation for careers in, among other areas, law, teaching, the civil service, the media, human resources, international relations, business, the arts, public administration, and economic aid and development. Studying Ireland, therefore, creates opportunities for students to achieve new self-understanding and follow exciting options in the future.

- Professor Michael Kenneally
Principal, School of Canadian Irish Studies

MORE GRADUATE STUDENTS IN CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES

In the last two years, the School of Canadian Irish Studies has experienced a dramatic increase in the number of students doing graduate studies, attracting them from various regions of Canada and abroad. Each is working with a professor in the School and most have received significant external research funding, as well as internal funding from Concordia and the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation. Below is a list of graduate students, with their area of research. Their undergraduate universities are highlighted to indicate how the growing national and international reputation of the School has begun to attract a diverse range of students to Concordia's programs in Canadian Irish studies.

MASTER'S STUDENTS

Mikayla Cartwright, St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec (Master's Candidate working on Women and Catholic Social Services in Montreal). Previous degree: **Bachelor of Arts, Concordia University.**

Camille Harrigan, Montreal, Quebec (Master's Candidate working on St. Patrick's Basilica as a Lieu de Mémoire of Irish History and Culture in Quebec). Previous degree: **Bachelor of Arts (with Distinction), Concordia University.**

Gabrielle Machnik-Kékesi, Montreal, Quebec (Master's Candidate working on Identity and Violence in Ireland's War of Independence). Previous degree: **Bachelor of Arts (with Distinction), Concordia University.**

Jessica Poulin, Montreal, Quebec (Master's Candidate working on Viking Dublin). Previous degrees: **Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours), McGill University; Certificate in Canadian Irish Studies, Concordia University.**

Tracy Valcourt, Ste-Rose, Manitoba (completed Master's thesis on Samuel Beckett). Previous degrees: **Bachelor of Arts, University of Manitoba; Certificate, University of Manitoba.**

DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Kate Bevan-Baker, Corner Brook, Newfoundland (Doctoral Candidate working on Music History and Vernacular Fiddling in Prince Edward Island and Îles de la Madeleine). Previous degrees: **Bachelor of Music, Memorial University of Newfoundland; Master of Music, McGill University.**

Amanda Leigh Cox, Etobicoke, Ontario (Doctoral Candidate working on Translation Narrative and Cultural Repair in Northern Ireland). Previous degrees: **Bachelor of Applied Arts, Ryerson Polytechnic University, Toronto; Bachelor of Arts (Honours), University of Toronto; Master of Arts, Concordia University.**

Linda Fitzgibbon, Ottawa, Ontario (Doctoral Candidate working on Memory and Identity in the Irish Diaspora in Canada). Previous degrees: **Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Memorial University of Newfoundland; Certificates, Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution; Master of Arts (with Distinction), Carleton University.**

Julie Guyot, Montreal, Quebec (Doctoral Candidate working on Irish and Lower Canadian Political Leaders' Discourses and Strategies for Achieving Full Citizenship). Previous degrees: **Bachelor of Arts, Université de Québec à Montréal; Master of Arts, Université de Québec à Montréal.**

Raymond Jess, Limerick, Ireland (Doctoral Candidate working on Catholic Irish Montreal and Canadian National Identity). Previous degrees: **Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Oxford Brookes University; Postgraduate Certificate, University of North London; Certificate in Canadian Irish Studies, Concordia University; Master of Arts, Concordia University.**

Michael Rast, East Point, Georgia, USA (Doctoral Candidate working on Domestic and International Press Reactions to the Anglo-Irish Treaty). Previous degrees: **Bachelor of Arts (Honours), The University of the South; Master of Arts, Georgia State University.**

Jérémy Tétrault-Farber, Montreal, Quebec (Doctoral Candidate working on Montreal's Multicultural Irish Soundscape). Previous degrees: **Bachelor of Arts (with Distinction), Queen's University, Kingston; Master of Arts, Queen's University, Kingston; Master of Arts, Queen's University Belfast.**

CAMPAIGN FOR $600,000 TO SUPPORT TWO PROFESSORS

(Continued from page 1)

The School of Canadian Irish Studies, the only one of its kind in Canada, now offers students a degree focusing on modern Ireland and the Irish abroad, especially in Canada. Gallery adds, "As an Irish-Canadian, I am very gratified by these achievements, and we in the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation are particularly pleased that we provide 20 scholarships annually worth a total of more than $30,000. Our last major goal now is to raise the remaining $500,000 of our $600,000 Capital Campaign. I ask all those who have been so generous to us in the past to consider supporting us again. In doing so, you will be ensuring the future viability of the School and its mission."

COURSES OFFERED BY THE SCHOOL OF CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES

Concordia is the only university in Canada with seven full-time professors, and two annual visiting scholars who teach Canadian Irish studies.

*Courses in bold will be offered in 2014-2015. All others are taught on a rotational basis.

Professor Susan Cahill
Highlights of Irish Literature
Narrating Irish Childhoods
Irish Literary Revival
James Joyce
Irish Children's Literature
Irish Literature and Nation in the 19th-century
Contemporary Irish Women's Writing

Professor Gavin Foster
History of Ireland
Research Methods in Irish Studies
Ireland in the 20th Century
The Great Irish Famine
The Troubles in Northern Ireland
The Irish Revolution, 1913-1923
History and Memory in Ireland

Professor Ruth Canning
Tudor Ireland: Society, Politics and Culture

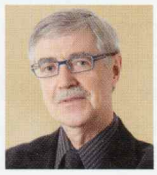
Professor Jane McGaughey
Introduction to Canadian Irish Studies
The Irish in Canada
Irish Identities Abroad
The Irish in Montreal
The Irish Diaspora on Film and Television
Irish Emigration and International Settlement

Professor Daithí Mac Fhlaithimh
Irish Language and Culture I

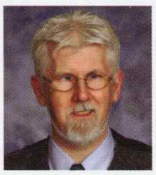
Professor Emer O'Toole
Irish Plays
Performing Irishness
Contemporary Irish Theatre
Irish Film Studies

Professor Theresa Reidy
Contemporary Politics in Ireland
Referendums in Canada, Ireland and Scotland

Professor Rhona Richman Kenneally
The Irish Home: Food, Space and Agency
Thatched House Big House: Home in Irish History and Culture



Professor Michael Kenneally
The Irish Short Story Tradition
Contemporary Irish Literature
James Joyce



Professor Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin
Irish Traditional Music: A Global Soundscape
Folklore, Myth and Orality
Irish Traditional Music in Quebec: Cultural History and Folk life
Irish Traditional Music in Canada
Irish Music History from the Celts to Bono
History of Early and Mediaeval Ireland

THE PETER O'BRIEN VISITING SCHOLAR FOR 2014

Theresa Reidy

Theresa Reidy, from the Department of Government at University College Cork, will be the Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar for the coming academic year. While at Concordia, she will teach two courses jointly offered by the School of Canadian Irish Studies and the Department of Political Science. At UCC, Reidy teaches Irish politics, political economy and public finance. Her research interests lie in the areas of public finance and electoral behaviour in Ireland. Reidy has received funding for research from the Irish Research Council, the Department of Education, the National Academy for Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (NAIRTL) and the European Commission. She is co-editor of *Irish Political Studies,* vice-president of the Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI), was honorary secretary of the PSAI from 2006 to 2011 and has represented political science on the social science committee of the Royal Irish Academy since 2007. She has given expert evidence to parliamentary committees on the Constitutional Convention, and is a regular contributor to national and international radio, television and print media.

CISF TRUSTEE, DANIEL JOHNSON, PLAYS ROLE IN RETURN TO POWER OF QUEBEC LIBERALS

The Quebec election last April saw a return to power of the Liberal Party under leader Philippe Couillard, winning 70 of the National Assembly's 125 seats. Throughout the campaign, former premier Daniel Johnson served as consultant to the party, and in his public statements emphasized that the election was about issues related to the economy, health and education. With the victory of the Liberals, Premier-elect Couillard appointed Johnson to head up the transition team to ensure a smooth change of government. Brian Gallery extended his congratulations to Daniel Johnson for his role in helping the formation of a new government in Quebec. Daniel Johnson is a trustee of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation. In 2009, the Johnson Chair in Quebec and Canadian Irish Studies was created in honour of the Johnson family. The creation of the Chair was made possible by a $3-million endowment, $2 million of which was provided by the Government of Quebec through the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation and $1 million from the Concordia University Foundation.

Daniel Johnson

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH: CONCORDIA LIBRARIES' IRISH STUDIES COLLECTION

"Thanks to the support of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, the Concordia Libraries are building one of the most comprehensive collections of Irish Studies materials in North America. Focused on supporting undergraduate and graduate students and faculty working on Ireland and the Irish diaspora, the libraries are acquiring print and electronic resources that document all aspects of Irish history, politics, culture, literature and theatre from the early Christian era to the present. The collection is particularly strong in materials on the Irish experience in North America, especially on the Irish in Canada and in Montreal.

The Canadian Irish Studies Foundation's generosity means that the libraries can purchase materials that would otherwise be beyond reach because of cost, including collections of printed primary sources like the important five-volume Proclamations of Ireland, 1660-1820, published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission and the JSTOR Ireland Collection of historic and current Irish journals, as well as important critical works published by smaller Irish presses. The libraries have recently taken on responsibility for significant archival collections related to Montreal's Irish community, including the records of statesman Thomas D'Arcy McGee, the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, "The Irish Show," a community television show broadcast from 1983 to 2001, and the Hingston family, whose members included Montreal mayor Sir William Hales Hingston and Loyola College rector William F. Hingston, SJ. The Hingston connection to Concordia continues with Brian Gallery, chairman of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, who is a great-grandson of Sir William Hingston.

The libraries greatly value the Foundation's support and its commitment to help students access important research materials that add to their understanding of Ireland, Irish culture and the Canadian Irish community."

- Geoffrey Little
Scholarly Communications Librarian
Concordia Libraries

PLANNED PUBLIC EVENTS FOR FALL 2014

Since 1991, 166 scholars, writers and public figures have spoken in the Irish Public Lecture Series at Concordia to audiences comprising students, academics and members of the wider community. In the academic year, there are usually between six and eight participants, from Ireland and elsewhere. The annual St. Patrick's Society Lecture, the annual Irish Protestant Benevolent Society Lecture, and the reading by an Irish writer in the Concordia Writers Read series are among the highlight of this fall's public events organized by the School.

DISTINGUISHED IRISH NOVELIST, DEIRDRE MADDEN, WILL READ AT CONCORDIA

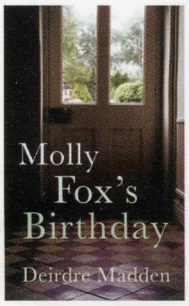


Photo: Mark Condren

Deirdre Madden

On Friday, October 10, Deirdre Madden will participate in Concordia's Writers Read series, co-organized by the Department of English and the School of Canadian Irish Studies. Deirdre Madden is from Toomebridge, Co. Antrim. For almost 30 years, Madden has published novels of quiet and subtle brilliance. Her books – which include *The Birds of the Innocent Wood, One by One in the Darkness, Molly Fox's Birthday* and *Time Present and Time Past* – have been twice shortlisted for the Orange Prize and earned the praise of such leading lights as Richard Ford and Anne Enright. Irish novelist Sebastian Barry calls her "the constant genius of Irish letters." Madden teaches at Trinity College Dublin, and will give a public reading and master class to writing students during her visit to Concordia.

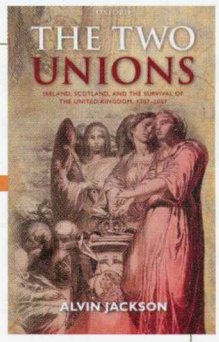
MÁIRTÍN MAC CON IOMAIRE TO GIVE 9TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY LECTURE

Máirtín Mac Con Iomaire

In 2006, The St. Patrick's Society established a prestigious annual lecture to bring distinguished speakers to Concordia. Inaugurated by former Irish prime minister, Garret FitzGerald, the series has included such public Irish figures as Fiach Mac Conghail (Artistic Director of the Abbey Theatre), Catriona Crowe (Director, National Archives) and Fintan O'Toole (Irish author and columnist). On Friday, Oct. 17, Máirtín Mac Con Iomaire, who is a professor of Culinary Arts at the Dublin Institute of Technology, will lecture on "Exploring the 'Food Motif' in songs from the Irish tradition." Máirtín is well known as an award-winning chef, culinary historian, food writer, broadcaster and ballad singer. He has presented two six-part series of cookery programs, *Aingeal sa Chistin*, for TG4, and has featured on numerous other food-related radio and television programs for RTE, TV3, Radio na Gaeltachta, and Canvas TV (Belgium). Máirtín is a regular contributor at the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery. Among his publications is the recently issued *'Tickling the Palate': Gastronomy in Irish Literature and Culture* (2014), a collection of essays co-edited with Eamon Maher.

To attend these events, contact 514-848-2424, ext. 8711, or visit *concordia.ca/artsci/can-irish-studies*.

DISTINGUISHED HISTORIAN TO DELIVER IRISH PROTESTANT BENEVOLENT SOCIETY LECTURE



Alvin Jackson, the Richard Lodge Professor of History at the University of Edinburgh, will give the 7th annual Irish Protestant Benevolent Society Lecture on Thursday, October 23. His research interests lie in the field of modern Irish and British history, and particularly in the political relationship between Britain and Ireland in the 19th and 20th centuries. He has written extensively on the Union and on Irish Unionism. Among his publications are *The Ulster Party, 1884-1911* (1989), which won the ACIS Prize for Best First Book, *Ireland 1798-1998: Politics and War* (1999) and *Home Rule: An Irish History 1800-2000* (2003). In 2012, his book *The Two Unions: Ireland, Scotland, and the Survival of the United Kingdom, 1707-2007*, was shortlisted for both the Saltire Society Scottish History Book of the Year and the Christopher Ewart-Biggs Memorial Prize. His most recent publication is *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Irish History* (2014). His lecture will explore comparisons between, and the longevity of, the Anglo-Scots and British-Irish unions.

LETTER FROM OUR COMMUNITY

We welcome feedback from our readers. Write us at ***cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca***.

Below is an excerpt of a letter from Francis Scarpaleggia, Member of Parliament, to Brian O'Neill Gallery, chairman of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation:

I recall very clearly the creation of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation in 1996. That said, I was not fully aware of the exciting and rapid progress that had been made since then; both in terms of the many and varied academic offerings, as well as the other programs the Foundation has helped share the richness of Irish history and culture. It is truly remarkable that, among other things, more than 10,000 students have taken one or more of the array of courses offered annually in various aspects of Irish studies.

I congratulate and commend you on enhancing the rich tapestry of Canada's cultural mosaic by making it possible for Canadians to explore, understand and appreciate the role of the Irish in the evolution of our great country.

FRANCIS SCARPALEGGIA
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT / DÉPUTÉ
LAC-SAINT-LOUIS

2013-2014 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Undergraduate:

WINNER	SCHOLARSHIP	AMOUNT
Isabel Plowright	Patrick Vallely	$500
Helene Pilbeam	Timothy Edward McIninch	$500
Catherine McGuire	Gerard Keyes	$500
Antoine Malette	Sean Treacy	$500
Jessica Poulin	Arthur Meighen	$600
Gavin Bennett	Moira Ann Snow	$700
Darius Alexei Pardiak	Geraldine O'Loghlin Stanford	$1,000
Shaney Marie Herrmann	McGee/Hincks/Travers	$1,000
Patrick Reed	McKenty	$1,000
Jordana Starkman	J. Armand Bombardier	$1,000
Helene Jane Groarke	Stephen Dowd	$1,000
Carla Plowright	Irish Protestant Benevolent Society	$1,250
James Leduc	Matthew Hamilton Gault	$1,250
Carine Brunet	Fr. Shaun Gerard McCarthy Govenlock	$1,500
Anna Campbell	Patrick Murray	$1,900
	Total Undergraduate Scholarships	$14,200

Graduate:

WINNER	SCHOLARSHIP	AMOUNT
Camille Harrigan	United Irish Societies/City of Montreal	$2,000
Gabrielle Machnik-Kékesi	Fr. Thomas Daniel McEntee	$3,500
Raymond Jess	Irene Mulroney	$4,500
Michael Rast	St. Patrick's Society	$5,000
	Total Graduate Scholarships	$15,000

Total Scholarships Awarded: $29,200

The Canadian Irish Studies Foundation Hopes for Your Support

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Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

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Phone: 514-848-2424, ext. 8711 Email: **cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca**

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Please accept my gift of $ _____ to

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- ❑ The Canadian Irish Studies Scholarship Fund
- ❑ My cheque to the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation is enclosed
- ❑ I would like to remain anonymous
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